

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 15 are present and pending in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated November 25, 2008, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8 and 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and has rejected claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 14 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Initially, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to include features from a state prior to the previous amendment. These amendments are for purposes of simplifying issues for appeal. Since the claimed features have been previously presented to (and acted upon) by the Examiner, no new issues are considered to be raised by these amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner takes the position that the features of automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list without further user intervention beyond initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the content object is not sufficiently described in the specification.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to include features from the state prior to the previous amendment, and recite the features of automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user

interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity. This feature did not raise a written description issue when previously presented to the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 (and their corresponding dependent claims) are considered to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8 and 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,930 (Mortimer et al.).

Briefly, the present invention is directed toward a system, method and data storage device for creating and storing a content object in a data repository as a group of hierarchically related content entities. Each content entity is contained in a separate file object. A list or outline containing container and non-container identifiers defines the content, order and structure of the content object. This list or outline is stored as a separate file object.

In order to assist in an understanding of the present invention, the present invention features may be illustrated by the following example with respect to generation of a content object in the form of a book. The book structure may include volumes each with one or more chapters, where each chapter, in turn, may include one or more sections. The content of the chapter sections resides in the data repository as individually accessible files each containing a section (or content entity). The present invention system basically represents the book in the form of a hierarchical outline of containers (e.g., representing volumes or chapters) and subordinate non-containers (e.g., sections). The non-containers are each associated with content entity identifiers indicating the files containing the content (or content entities) in the data repository to be included within the corresponding container and book. The hierarchical outline

of containers and content entity identifiers is stored as a separate file object. A user interface enables a user to manipulate the outline to select and alter the book content. In other words, a user may construct and arrange the book (e.g., into volumes, chapters, sections, etc.) with content (e.g., text, images, etc.) selected from the data repository. When the user adds, removes or moves book content, the corresponding content entity identifier is respectively added, removed or moved within the outline. In addition, the present invention provides prerequisite checking, wherein some content entities are associated, and selection by the user of an entity causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects in the final compilation. In other words, prerequisite content is some material, A, that is required in a compilation when another piece of material, B, is included in the compilation.

The Examiner takes the position that the Mortimer et al. patent discloses all the features within these claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Initially, the Mortimer et al. patent discloses a customizable interactive text (CIT) book including an assembly of data modules that control the inputting, categorizing and formatting of educational data determined to be well-accepted principles. The well-accepted principles create a primary knowledge base stored as a professor CITbook (e.g., See Abstract). A professor can customize and modify the well-accepted knowledge base of the professor CITbook to generate a student CITbook (e.g., See Column 7, lines 5 - 8). A map module allows professors to define a preferred presentation route through the knowledge base by creating data links between topics or objects (e.g., See Column 11, lines 62 - 66). A map generator further allows the professor to define and create a preferred map or

sequence that is followed during a presentation of the material. The system processor executes the preferred or customized sequence by retrieving the data according to the links defined in the predetermined sequence (e.g., See Column 14, lines 14 - 17). A link manager controls the generation, assignment and modification of all data links between all the material stored in the professor and student CITbooks. In the professor CITbook, links are created in a predetermined or preferred sequence linking the material together to define a primary route through the chapters (e.g., See Column 18, line 61 to Column 19, line 3).

Independent claims 1, 6 and 11 recite the features of: creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, and adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user for the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed.

The Examiner construes CITbook 40 and the group of links defining the predetermined primary sequence as the claimed content object and list of content entities defining the content object, and the set of pre-defined data entry rules 74 as the claimed prerequisite content

designations (e.g., See Pages 4 - 6 of the Office Action). However, rules 74 relate to the document-entry process and specify a selected data format which the data must comply before being accepted by the system. The rules provide for formatting, organizing, categorizing and integrating the inputted data into the CITbook 40. For example, the Mortimer et al. patent discloses that the rules relate to: use of certain fonts or characters; headings and emphasized words; tables, columns, and equations; and categorization (e.g., Subject Matter, Topic, etc.) of entered text (e.g., See Column 8, lines 19 - 37). Accordingly, the rules relied upon by the Examiner relate to entry of data in the system. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion that the Mortimer et al. rules specify relationships between the entered data including designation of data associated with other data for automatic inclusion in CITbook 40 (with the addition of the other data) as recited in the independent claims.

Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 further recite the features of examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity. The Examiner construes the determination of well-accepted data for forming the primary knowledge base of CITbook 40 to meet the claimed limitation (e.g., See Office Action Pages 6 - 7). However, the portions of the Mortimer et al. patent relied upon by the Examiner refer to deciding which data is entered into the CITbook 40 (e.g., See Column 7, lines 51 - 62). There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of designations indicating that certain data needs to be included with other data in the

CITbook 40 or, for that matter, examining the designations to determine which other data is designated for automatic inclusion with selected data as recited in the independent claims.

In addition, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 further recite the features of automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the content object. The Examiner construes the actuation of embedded links in the presented material as this claimed limitation (e.g., See Page 7 - 8 of the Office Action).

However, this construction is misplaced. The Examiner has construed the group of primary sequence links as the claimed list defining the content object. The Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest that selection of one of these primary sequence links for addition or removal from the group automatically causes addition or removal of an associated link (or material) as recited in the independent claims. In fact, the sections of the Mortimer et al. patent relied upon by the Examiner relate to presentation of material in the primary sequence defined by the links, and the capability of a student to actuate an embedded link within the presented material to alter the presentation sequence (e.g., See Column 21, line 65 to Column 22, line 2; and Column 22, lines 7 - 12). Since the embedded link (for additional material) is within and actuated from the presented material (and not within the group of links defining the primary sequence (construed as the claimed list defining the content object by the Examiner)), the embedded link (or corresponding additional material) is not automatically added to or removed from the group of primary sequence links (or list defining the content object) in response to

addition or removal of a primary sequence link to or from the group as recited in the independent claims.

Since the Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 3, 7 - 8 and 12 - 13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 6 or 11 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 14 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mortimer et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,633 (Tabuchi).

The Examiner takes the position that the Mortimer et al. patent discloses the claimed subject matter, except for reducing the rule set and rewriting negative rules as positive rules. The Examiner further alleges that the Tabuchi patent discloses these features, and that it would have been obvious to combine the Mortimer et al. and Tabuchi patents to attain the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Initially, claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10, and 14 - 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 6 or 11 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. As discussed above, the Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest the features within parent claims 1, 6 and 11.

The Tabuchi patent does not compensate for the deficiencies of the Mortimer et al. patent. Rather, the Tabuchi patent discloses a compound document management system comprising a compound document object holding unit for holding a compound document object and a schema object generating unit for generating a schema object and applying the same to a compound document object, the schema object including a structuring rule table (e.g., See Abstract). The system manages a relational structure of each object in a compound document in which data of different formats, such as text and image, is embedded (e.g., See Column 1, lines 9 - 15). A user adds data (e.g., an image) to a compound document via an application program. The application program inquires of the schema object whether the image data can be related to the compound document object. The schema object obtains information from an information database and the structuring rule table is searched for the existence of a relevant rule enabling the image to be added. If the rule exists, the user is allowed to select the image insertion function. Otherwise, this operation is not permitted (e.g., See Fig. 3 and Column 9, line 61 to Column 10, line 42).

Thus, the Tabuchi patent discloses insertion of data into a compound document based on rules within a rule table defining permitted objects for the document, and is merely utilized by the Examiner for an alleged teaching of reduction of a rule set and rewriting of rules.

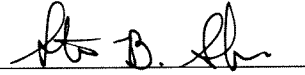
Since the Mortimer et al. and Tabuchi patents do not disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features recited in claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10, and 14 - 15 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

AMENDMENT
Appln. No.: 09/488,969

Attorney Docket No.: STL000017US1 (0920.0040C)

The application, having been shown to overcome issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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